

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CU-04 EURE-00 /061 W

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O R 101440Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8749

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1251

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, FI, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM NEW YORK-HELSINKI CHARTER FLIGHT

REF: STATE 134194

1. EMBASSY HAS PASSED CONTENTS REFTEL TO EXECUTIVES OF PAN AM FINLAND AND LEAGUE OF FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETIES. WE ARE ALL PLEASED AT POSITIVE SOUND OF MESSAGE BUT CONCERNED THAT FINAL CAB BOARD DECISION MIGHT IN END BE NEGATIVE. LONG TIME EMBASSY EFFORT TO INCREASE SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL, TO SAY NOTHING OF COMMERCIAL, CONTACTS BETWEEN FINNS AND AMERICANS WOULD SUFFER SEVERE SETBACK IF LEAGUE UNABLE TO CONTINUE ITS IMPRESSIVE TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN FINLAND AND U.S.

2. EMBASSY FOR LONG TIME HAS GIVEN FULLEST SUPPORT TO LEAGUE'S EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN FINLAND; LEAGUE IS ONLY SIGNIFICANT FORUM FOR U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THIS KEY COUNTRY. IF LEGAL ACTION TAKEN BY U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY AGAINST PRINCIPAL AMERICAN FRIEND IN FINLAND, IT WILL INELUCTABLY BE VIEWED HERE AS A PSYCHOLGICAL DEFEAT FOR OUR BEST EFFORTS. USIS WORKS CLOSELY WITH LEAGUE IN HOST OF PROJECTS TO PRESENT A FAVORABLE AMERICAN CULTURAL

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IMPACT HERE. WE CONSIDER THIS A SIGNIFICANT

INVESTMENT WHICH NEEDS PROTECTION.

3. FINALLY, EMBASSY EFFORT PROMOTE USE OF AMERICAN FLAG AIRLINE WILL TAKE CRUSHING BLOW IF JUNE 12 FLIGHT CANCELLED. LEAGUE HAS LONG DOUBTED PAN AM ABILITY TO DELIVER CHARTER FLIGHTS ON COMPETITIVE BASIS HERE. JUST WHEN PAN AM HAD BEGUN TO MAKE SERIOUS IMPACT (AND WITH COMPETITIVE PRICES), CAB IRONICALLY SELECTS AN AMERICAN CARRIER ON WHICH TO STOP A LEAGUE CHARTER. WE DO NOT EXAGGERATE WHEN WE SAY THAT IF THIS FLIGHT IS CANCELLED, PAN AM WILL LOSE GROUND IRREPAIRABLY. PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE PAN AM MUST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS, FINNAIR MAY TAKE THE CHARTERS FIRST AND FILE NOTICE OF THEIR COMPLETION THEREAFTER. SAS IS ALSO STRONG COMPETITOR TO THE AMERICAN CARRIER. WE FEEL IT INCUMBENT TO AID PAN AM TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

4. REQUEST URGENT AND FIRM INTERVENTION WITH CAB TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, ORIGIN OF WHICH REMAINS TOTALLY UNKNOWN HERE.
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